UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
58th meeting
held on
Thursday, 16 December 1993
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/48/SR.58
1 March 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

93-83025 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/48/210-E/1993/89, A/48/283, A/48/340, A/48/342, A/48/425, A/48/509 and Add.1, A/48/510, A/48/575, A/48/576, A/48/589, A/48/590; A/C.3/48/7 and A/C.3/48/8)

1. Mr. KEDZIA (Poland) and Ms. KOFLER (Austria) welcomed the Committee's adoption of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. They thanked the Chairman of the Working Group of the Committee that had considered the creation of the Office, as well as the representatives of Brazil and Singapore, for the excellent way in which they had conducted the work of the group, which had resulted in a consensus. There was no doubt that that consensus would be a good starting point for the work of the future High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2. Mr. DEKANY (Hungary) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement by the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, made on behalf of the States of Eastern Europe, concerning the creation of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. His delegation commended and thanked the representative of Ecuador, the Chairman of the Working Group, for his outstanding work. He requested that his statement should be included in the summary record of the meeting.

3. Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) said that he had been touched by the words of gratitude expressed by delegations at the previous and current meeting. He commended the excellent work of the representatives of Brazil and Singapore, who had succeeded in resolving the very delicate questions involved in the creation of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights; they also deserved hearty thanks.

4. The Working Group would proceed to the second stage of its mandate. At the last meeting of the Working Group, he had requested all members to consider ways in which the Working Group could continue its work in a useful manner, and to submit their views in order to enable him to consolidate them. He would convene the Working Group in mid-January to propose a work plan.

5. He thanked the Chairman of the Committee and the members of the Working Group for their very valuable cooperation.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 114 (b) and suggested that the Committee should take note of the following documents: report of the Committee against Torture (A/48/44 and Add.1); report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (A/48/283); report of the Secretary-General on respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (A/48/425); report

(The Chairman)

of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/48/520); note by the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/48/556); report of the Secretary-General on financing and adequate staff resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies (A/48/560); note by the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/48/576); note by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon (A/48/577); report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat (A/48/589); report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/48/590); report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights (A/48/599); and note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights (A/48/92-S/25341).

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

7. Mr. DO NASCIMENTO (Angola), on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. ASAHI (Japan), on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. PANEV (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, and Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, expressed their thanks and warm wishes to the Chairman.

8. Mr. CABRAL (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Western European and other States and the European Union, of which his country currently held the presidency, paid homage, as had the delegations that had taken the floor before him, to the Chairman of the Third Committee who, through his professional competence, diplomatic skill and cordiality, had greatly contributed to the success of the Committee's work. He also thanked the members of the Bureau as well as Ms. Kamal, who was serving as Secretary of the Committee for the last time.

9. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), speaking as the representative of the host country, said that his delegation fully endorsed the expressions of thanks made by delegations that had spoken before him, in particular the delegation of Portugal, to the Chairman of the Third Committee. All delegations also had a debt of gratitude to the representative of Ecuador for the remarkable way in which he had conducted the work of the Working Group. In that regard, he also thanked the representatives of Brazil and Singapore for their valuable contributions. Finally, he thanked Ms. Kamal for her outstanding service to the Third Committee over many long years.

10. The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegations for their kind words addressed to him and the members of the Bureau. He thanked them for their support during the current session and also thanked Ms. Kamal for her advice and great experience, which had been particularly valuable to him. Finally, he thanked the staff of Conference Services and wished all a happy holiday season.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.